



May 4, 2004

The Honorable Joe Barton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Barton and Dingell:

We are writing to express our opposition to provisions in the Department of Defense's Readiness and Range Preservation Initiative. This initiative will exempt the military from several environmental laws, such as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund).

For counties that have military bases in their district, these changes will place additional burdens on them to achieve healthy standards for their citizens. Both non-attainment and near non-attainment counties will bear heavier loads to reduce air pollution in their region and suffer the consequences when they are unable to stay in compliance. It's the same for water pollution. The water that is polluted on the base will eventually flow outside its borders becoming both the county's and state's problem.

Additionally, in 2005, a new round of military base closures are scheduled. As it is now, contamination from previously closed military facilities has contributed to environmental damage in those affected counties.

While we are supportive of both the military and the military's readiness activities, the problems they face only underscores the larger problem citizens all over this nation face daily under this regulatory climate. We support a uniform national solution to these challenges.

We urge the military to comply with federal environmental laws and be a leader in the field of environmental cleanup, including addressing public health concerns, ecological restoration, and waste management. We respectfully urge you to oppose military environmental exceptions in any bill.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Julie Ufner on my staff at 202-942-4269 or jufner@naco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Larry E. Naake'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larry Naake
Executive Director